Elaine, of course, had no love for Schurz or his ideals, but rightly estimated the importance of obtaining the support of the head and front of the Independent movement. Much stronger opponents than Phelps or Nordhoff had succumbed to that proverbial magnetism and those famous displays of cordiality, which were almost irresistible even when wholly insincere. He plied Schurz with them from time to time, without success. Once when Schurz was at Charles NordhofTs, Elaine appeared and renewed his solicitations after Nordhoff withdrew. When Schurz left, Elaine accompanied him. As they neared Lafayette Square, Elaine realized that, as his usual methods were unavailing, it was time for a grand *coup.* Growing more and more friendly and ardent, still without the desired effect, he threw his arm almost around his companion's neck, and looking him appealingly in the face said, " Carl, you won't *oppose* me, will you?"

Meantime Schurz had been revolving in his mind a plan for a conference of Independents to devise measures " to prevent the campaign of the centennial year from becoming a mere scramble of politicians for the spoils." The next four months were devoted to the elaboration of this plan. Quietly and with the utmost care to avoid the participation of such elements as wrecked the Cincinnati movement, the adhesion was secured of hundreds of Republicans and Independents whose names meant influence and votes.

At the most critical stage of this movement a terrible domestic affliction came upon its leader. Mrs. Schurz died March 15, 1876. Kindly and tender ministrations of the multitude of friends who surrounded the stricken husband did not avail to restore the mental balance requisite for the work in hand until weeks had been lost.

At last, however, in April the formal invitations, signed by Schurz, Theodore Woolsey, Horace White, William Cullen